Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 00:00 on Wednesday 21 Dec 2022 until 23:59 on Thursday 22 Dec 2022

Forecast Issued on Tuesday 20 Dec 2022 at 16:24

Confidence: High for unsettled, occasionally windy, conditions through the coming days with rain and summit sleet or snow but becoming low for details from Saturday.

Headline for Wednesday 21 Dec 2022: Cloudy with outbreaks of rain with summit sleet and snow. Southwesterly gales.

Mountain weather hazards on Wednesday 21 Dec 2022

Blizzards
Low Likelihood

Gales
High Likelihood

Thunderstorms
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent snow
Low Likelihood

Severe chill effect
Medium Likelihood

Heavy persistent rain
No Likelihood

Storm force winds
No Likelihood

Poor visibility
Medium Likelihood

Strong sunlight
No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m							
Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Partly cloudy (night)	Sleet showers (night)	Sleet showers (night)	Sleet	Sleet	Cloudy	Sleet	Cloudy
Precipitation probability							
10%	30%	30%	60%	70%	40%	60%	40%

Forecast for Wednesday 21 Dec 2022

Weather: A few clear spells through the early hours, especially in north and east, with increasing risk of showers, these falling mainly as snow above about 750m. The overnight showers merge during the morning to give some longer spells of rain with sleet and snow becoming confined to the highest summits, the afternoon then remaining cloudy with further outbreaks of rain and higher summit sleet or snow.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: Around 75% at dawn but soon falling close to zero in the south and west and 25% in the north and east.

Low cloud and visibility: Occasional cloud, soon becoming periods or persistent, above about 600m with patches below. Away from cloud visibility very good falling to several kilometres in rain and sleet and perhaps a kilometre or less in higher summit snow.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
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Mountain Weather Forecast

Forecast for Wednesday 21 Dec 2022

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	41/51 SW	38/48 S	40/50 SW	42/53 SW	46/58 SW	44/56 SW	42/53 SW	38/48 SW	33/41 SW
600	32/44 SW	31/43 SW	32/44 SW	32/45 SW	36/50 SW	35/49 SW	33/46 SW	29/40 SW	25/35 SW
300	11/33 SW	11/30 SW	12/33 SW	12/34 SW	15/39 SW	15/37 SW	14/35 SW	12/30 SW	11/26 SW
Valley	13/33 SW	12/31 S	12/31 SW	14/34 SW	17/39 SW	15/36 SW	15/35 SW	13/31 SW	11/26 SW

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	1/-8	0/-8	0/-9	0/-9	1/-8	1/-8	1/-7	1/-7	1/-7
600	3/-4	2/-5	2/-5	2/-5	3/-4	3/-4	3/-4	3/-3	3/-3
300	5/2	4/1	4/1	5/1	6/1	6/2	6/2	6/2	5/2
Valley	7/4	7/3	7/4	7/4	8/4	8/4	8/4	8/5	8/5
Freezing Level*	1000m	900m	900m	900m	1100m	1100m	1100m	1100m	1100m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Feeling cold at most levels. Southwesterly gales with gusts around 65mph, especially around midday, over ridges and summits, easing in evening

Forecast for Thursday 22 Dec 2022

Weather: Remaining cloudy overnight with further outbreaks of rain, and on higher summits sleet and snow. Then a mostly cloudy day with patchy rain, this becoming more persistent and occasionally heavy through the late afternoon and evening, with sleet and snow likely on the highest summits.

Maximum wind: Southwesterly 30mph, gusts around 45mph decreasing soon after midnight to 15-20mph. Winds back and ease southerly 10-15mph through the morning then more easterly around 10mph through the afternoon and evening.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: Little chance through much of the day, but nearer 25% in north

Low cloud and visibility: Periods or persistent cloud 450-600m, but nearer 750m at times in north. Away from cloud visibility good falling to several kilometres in rain and sleet and perhaps a kilometre or less in higher summit snow.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Around plus 5 or 6 Celsius at dawn rising to 8 Celsius by day
At 800m: Around plus 3 Celsius
Freezing level: Around 1100m

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Tuesday 20 December 2022 Location: Helvellyn summit at 12:00 Full report: Sunday's turbo thaw has dramatically slowed for the simple reason that there is now little snow left to thaw! The vast majority of the Lakeland fells and paths are now free from both snow and ice. The only snow that remains lies above 700m in sheltered spots and hollows is generally soft and saturated and easy to avoid. There are isolated patches of ice on paths which are, again, generally easy to avoid. These are situated above 250m on drainage lines and on some popular routes where the snow has been compressed. Owing to the lack of any winter conditions, the main hazards today were the wet, slippery, greasy rocks underfoot combined with the gusty winds. It is definitely essential to concentrate on careful foot placement when attempting steep and exposed terrain (such as the Helvellyn Edges) in such conditions.

Despite the milder weather, the summit temperature at midday was only marginally above freezing with the windchill (what the temperature actually feels like) well below at minus 8 degrees, so full winter clothing (waterproofs, extra warm layers, hat & gloves), mountain boots and equipment including torch, map and compass and the ability to use them in potentially poor visibility such as low cloud are all essential to safely enjoy the fells. Walking poles to aid stability on slippery paths could also be useful. Those heading for the higher fells on Wednesday should bear in mind that there are showers forecast for Tuesday evening and overnight and that these may fall as snow on higher ground. This would obviously obscure the isolated patches of ice that, otherwise, are clearly visible. Temperature: plus 0.9 C, Maximum wind speed 35.8 mph, Wind chill: minus 8.2 C, Average wind speed: 25.5 mph

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